

30th January 1923] [Sir Charles Todhunter]

those who survey his position that he does not, and cannot, enjoy perfect freedom to take part in debate, and in accepting election to the office, he also accepts the sacrifice of many otherwise tempting Parliamentary opportunities.

"I have quoted that, Sir, because it has been suggested that, although this matter has been taken up in all the Legislative Councils, it has been stated that the only people who have raised any question on the subject are certain officials in Madras.

"I think, Sir, that hon. Members are aware that the prompter of this motion was not an official at all. I am surprised that any opposition should have been raised to what is merely a formal motion, and one which is being made in every Council in India."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I would simply draw attention to the fact that at present we are only discussing the question as to whether we should have a Committee to examine these questions. And it is apparent that under those circumstances it is unfair not to give the Committee quite a free hand. I am sure that the Deputy President and the hon. the Law Member who are both members of the Committee will, notwithstanding all that they have said here, go into the Committee with perfectly open minds willing to hear and ready to be convinced by what other members may say. With these remarks, I will now put the motion to the House."

The motion was put and carried.

VII

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The next motion is an amendment to the Standing Orders proposed by Mr. Krishnan Nayar. Before the hon. Member tabled this motion, he was presumably not aware of the report of that Committee. There will probably be several amendments necessary. It is for his consideration whether he will put them all together or whether he will move this by itself."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir? The Standing Order says :

Unless the President otherwise directs, not less than ten days' notice of a motion for leave to amend the Standing Orders should be given

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I gave this notice several days ago."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Sufficient notice has been given."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I was myself a member of the Committee which was appointed to report on the measures to be taken with reference to the congestion of non-official business. And in the report itself it has been suggested, though not expressly, by implication at all events, that the substance of this Standing Order should be given effect to. I may also be permitted to say that when the report was circulated I wrote to the Secretary to this Council that this identical amendment might go as part of the report of the Committee. But I was informed by the Secretary that it could go in only as a dissenting minute. Then I wrote to him that it was not likely that the members of the Committee would dissent from me, that all of them would unanimously agree with me and that it would not be proper in these

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circumstances to include this as a dissenting minute. Independently I gave notice of this amendment. Then, Sir, with reference to the report of the Committee, you suggest to me the desirability of having this amendment postponed so as to be considered along with the other amendments to the Standing Orders. But I beg permission to move this at once, and, if I am permitted, I shall give my reasons for doing so."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is perfectly within his rights in asking for leave to move it at once. I am now to read out the draft of the amendment :—

Omit the full stop at the end, and add the words ' which shall be held separately for bills and for resolutions.'

" I have now to inquire whether the hon. Member has the leave of the House.

" No objection having been taken, I declare that the hon. Member has the leave of the Council.

" The draft amendment has now to be referred to a Select Committee of which the President shall be Chairman, and the Deputy President, the Advocate-General, and a Chairman of the Council to be nominated by the President, shall be members. I hereby nominate Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu to be a member of the Committee, and then the remaining members of the Committee, six in number, have to be elected by the Council by means of the single transferable vote. I have to appoint a period within which notice may be handed to the Secretary by any member desiring to propose a member or members for election. I hereby fix 3 p.m. to-morrow afternoon as the period within which the notice required should be handed over to the Secretary."

VIII

THE MADRAS SURVEY AND BOUNDARIES BILL, 1921.

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD HABIB-UL-LAH SAHIB
12 noon. Bahadur :—" As the House will remember when this Bill was fully considered at the last sitting in the light of the amendments that had been tabled by hon. Members, I informed the House that I would defer my motion for passing the Bill into law until this day so that in the meantime I might examine the amendments which had been accepted by the House with particular reference to their effect on the other provisions of the Bill and consider what amendments, if any, consequential or otherwise, would be necessary. Having conducted that examination, I have tabled a few amendments as appearing on the agenda, and with a view to consider these amendments, I move the further consideration of the Bill."

The hon. Sir K. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I second it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Mr. Ramachandra Rao wishes to move an amendment to the effect that in clause 1 ' 1923 ' shall be substituted for ' 1922 '. The hon. Member's amendment is out of time and I inquire whether any hon. Member has objection to this amendment being allowed now."

No objection having been taken, the hon. Member was allowed to move his amendment.

Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO PANTULU :—" Sir, I beg to move that in clause 1 *for ' 1922 ', ' 1923 ' be substituted*, so as to indicate that this Act was passed only this year and not last year."